



Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment

December 14, 2011 Public Information Forum Summary Report

**Prepared for:
The Regional Municipality of York**

**AUGUST 2012
REF. NO. 050278
YORK REGION No. 74270**



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Section 1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the Public Information Forum held as part of the Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Undertaking stage of the Upper York Sewage Solutions (UYSS) Environmental Assessment (EA) on December 14, 2011 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Holland Landing Community Centre.

The purpose of the UYSS EA is to develop a sustainable sewage servicing solution to accommodate provincially approved growth in the UYSS service area. The service area consists of the growth portions of the Town of Aurora, Town of Newmarket and portions of the Town of East Gwillimbury, including Holland Landing, Queensville and Sharon.

In accordance with the Minister approved (as amended) UYSS EA Terms of Reference, the Regional Municipality of York (York Region) consulted with review agencies, First Nations and Métis organizations, and the public on the proposed Alternatives To the Undertaking, the screening criteria for assessing them, and the recommended Alternative to the Undertaking between May 2010 and November 2011. With input obtained, York Region confirmed the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre alternative as the Preferred Alternative To the Undertaking for the UYSS EA and proceeded with the next stage of the UYSS EA - Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Undertaking.

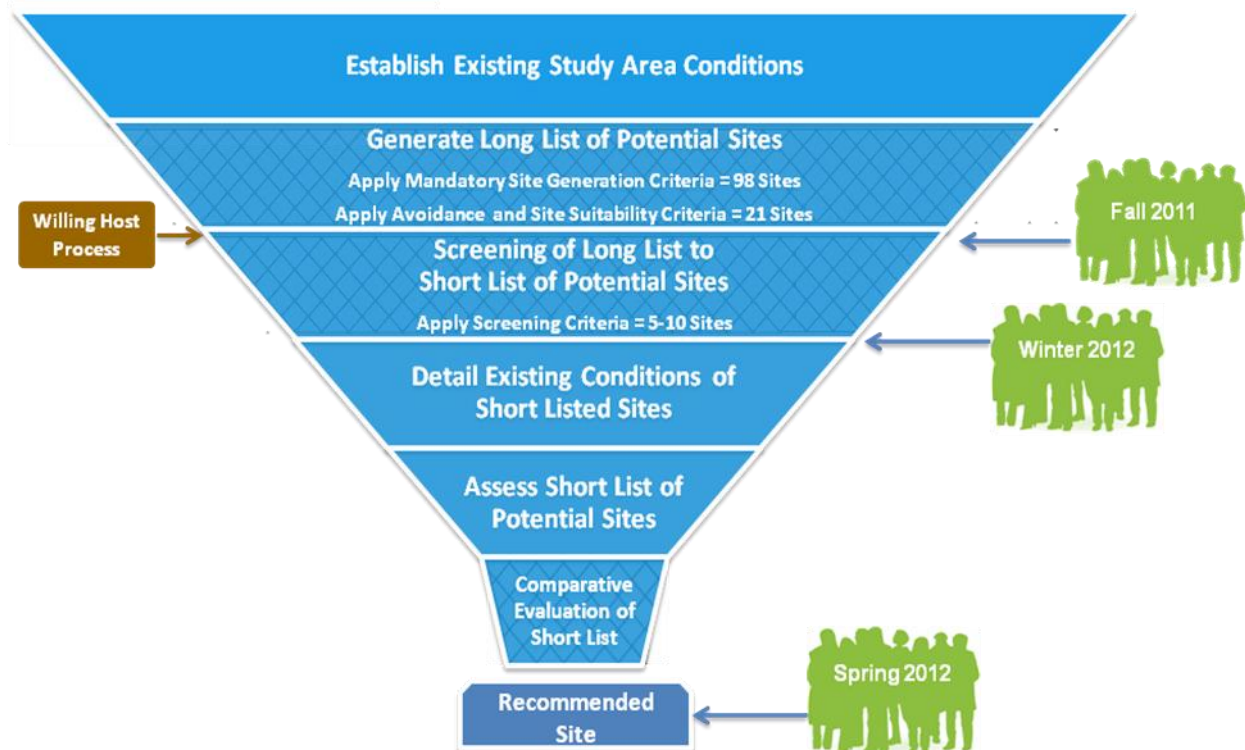
As part of the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre alternative, wastewater from growth in East Gwillimbury and a portion of Newmarket will be conveyed to a Water Reclamation Centre located in East Gwillimbury or Newmarket for treatment and discharge within the Lake Simcoe watershed. The Water Reclamation Centre would include infrastructure to collect wastewater from the local municipal sewer system and infrastructure to convey treated wastewater to the East Holland River or Cook's Bay.

Wastewater resulting from growth in Aurora and the remainder of Newmarket will be conveyed through the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) for treatment and discharge to Lake Ontario. To accommodate this, modifications to the existing YDSS in Aurora and Newmarket will be required.

Section 2.0 Water Reclamation Centre Site Generation and Selection Process

As part of the Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Undertaking stage of the UYSS EA, York Region will identify and assess alternative sites for the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre. The process for generating, assessing, and selecting a site for the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre is shown in **Figure 1**. A sophisticated Geographical Information System database was developed for generating, screening, and assessing potential sites based on information loaded into the database concerning the proximity to sensitive features and land uses and site suitability criteria.

Figure 1: Site Generation and Selection Process



As per the Minister approved (as amended) Terms of Reference, a site generation process was used to identify a long list of 21 potentially suitable sites. The Geographical Information System database was utilized to generate the long list by removing sites that did not meet the site generation criteria. The following criteria were used to generate potentially suitable sites:

- The site is within the municipal boundaries of East Gwillimbury or Newmarket;
- The site has a minimum site size of 30 ha;

- The site is within 5 km of a permanent water body capable of accommodating the treated effluent discharge (East Holland River or Cook's Bay);
- The site has an elevation between 218 and 253 metres above sea level to minimize pumping requirements; and
- The site is a minimum of 120 m away from sensitive environmental features:
 - Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW)
 - Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA)
 - Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
 - Significant habitat of endangered or threatened aquatic and terrestrial species
 - Significant Wooded Areas
 - Greenbelt Natural Heritage System
 - Oak Ridges Moraine
- The site avoids sensitive land uses:
 - Regulated Floodplain
 - Wellhead Protection Areas (25-year time of travel)
 - Minimum 150 m away from park land, recreational establishments, residential uses and institutional facilities with significant outdoor components.

York Region has an existing approved location at the Holland Landing Water Pollution Control Plant (Lagoons). Since this site is already an approved location with a Ministry of the Environment Certificate of Approval for operation of the sewage works, it is not assessed as part of the site generation process.

Based on the fact that only reasonable alternatives should be considered in an EA, the long list of sites generated during the UYSS EA was assessed using screening criteria to arrive at a short list of potential sites for the Water Reclamation Centre, as per the Minister approved (as amended) Terms of Reference. With this in mind, the following draft screening criteria were developed for application to the long list of potential Water Reclamation Centre sites:

Natural Environment

- Is the Water Reclamation Centre situated more than 120 m from any locally significant (non PSW) wetlands?
- Is the Water Reclamation Centre situated more than 120 m from a permanent watercourse/water body feature?

Technical

- Is the site suitable for construction and operation of a Water Reclamation Centre (considering site characteristics and distance of conveyance infrastructure)

Built Environment

- Does the Water Reclamation Centre avoid displacing agricultural operations and/or structures?
- Is the Water Reclamation Centre adjacent or have direct access to a regional road?
- Does the Water Reclamation Centre avoid displacing existing residences, businesses, and/or community, institutional and recreational facilities?



Economic Environment

- Does the Water Reclamation Centre avoid displacing future land uses?

As shown in **Figure 1**, a Request for Expressions of Interest (“Willing Host”) process was also carried out to allow the opportunity for interested parties to identify potential publicly or privately-owned properties, either individually or in combination, that may be willingly offered for sale to York Region for the proposed Water Reclamation Centre. The Request for Expressions of Interest was initiated on January 13, 2012.

Section 3.0

Workshop Purpose, Notification and Format

The purpose of the December 14, 2011 workshop was to:

- Describe the Water Reclamation Centre site selection process;
- Present and obtain feedback on the long list of 21 potential Water Reclamation Centre sites;
- Present and obtain feedback on the draft screening criteria to reach a short list of potential Water Reclamation Centre sites; and
- Obtain feedback on other community considerations for the project team to consider when selecting a site for the Water Reclamation Centre.

Notification for the workshop was accomplished through the following:

- Notification to all agencies and interested members of the public in the contact database. The majority of notices were sent via email. A total of approximately 290 notifications were sent to individuals beginning on November 25, 2011;
- Posting on the project website (www.uyssolutions.ca); and
- Newspaper advertisements in the *Era-Banner* publications for East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora on Thursday November 24th and Sunday December 4th, 2011 and the *Georgina Advocate* on Thursday November 24th, 2011 and on Thursday December 1st, 2011.

A copy of this notice is included in **Appendix A**.

The workshop was well attended with over 70 people participating. At the registration table, people were assigned a table for the presentation and round table discussions. The workshop commenced with an open house from 6 to 6:30 p.m. where members of the public were able to view panels identifying information about the proposed Water Reclamation Centre, site requirements, the site generation and selection process, and a map of the long list of 21 potential candidate sites. A copy of these panels is included in **Appendix B**. At 7 p.m. the independent facilitator Sue Cumming (Cumming +Company) opened the workshop and introduced Ian Dobrindt of AECOM who gave a short presentation to stimulate discussion. A copy of the presentation is included in **Appendix C**.

After some initial questions, workshop participants provided input through two exercises:

1. **Round Table Discussions:** Facilitated by a member of the project team, each assigned group of participants around each workshop table was asked to discuss and record on flip chart paper key words that could be used to describe a good site for the Water Reclamation Centre, and community considerations they would like to see addressed through the development of the site. Through this discussion a number of common themes emerged. The comments were recorded by the group facilitator and collated after the event. A complete transcription of the flip charts is included in **Table 4.1** in

Section 4.1. As well, a summary of the comments provided during the round table discussion is included in **Tables 4.4 to 4.11** in **Section 4.3**.

2. **Rotating Work Stations:** Six stations with flip charts were setup around the room. The group of participants around each table was asked to spend approximately five minutes at each station to provide their ideas for how the long list of sites should be assessed. At each station, members of the public provided their comments adding to the comments that were noted by the previous group. The stations were organized according to the following categories based on the definition of the environment provided in the *Environmental Assessment Act*:

- Technical considerations;
- Natural environment;
- Built environment;
- Social environment;
- Cultural environment (including built heritage and archaeological); and
- Economic environment and financial considerations.

An additional station showed an aerial map of the long list of potential Water Reclamation Centre sites, where workshop participants were asked to provide specific input on any of the 21 sites. Members of the project team assisted at each station to record all ideas and input on flip charts. A summary of the key comments provided at these stations is included in **Tables 4.4 to 4.11** in **Section 4.3**. A complete transcription of the flip charts is included in **Appendix D**.

Comment forms were provided for workshop participants to provide any comments or questions they did not share during the workshop session. A summary of the comments provided through the comment forms included in **Section 4.3**. Copies of the comment forms are included in **Appendix E**.

Section 4.0 Feedback Received at the Workshop

4.1 Round Table Discussions

As discussed in **Section 2**, each table of workshop participants was asked to discuss and record on flip chart paper key words that could be used to describe a good site for the Water Reclamation Centre, and community considerations they would like to see addressed through the development of the site. The feedback gained from the round table discussions is included in **Table 4.1**. These comments are also included in **Tables 4.4 to 4.11**.

Table 4.1: Comments Received During Round Table Discussion

<p>Common Themes Identified Relating to Site Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Water Reclamation Centre Site should be within the service area; ■ Choose sites that will help the receiving basin – i.e., Holland River, Cook’s Bay; ■ Keep the site away from residential areas; ■ Ensure that the Water Reclamation Centre does not adversely affect land values/property values; ■ Choose a site that avoids impacts on existing land uses from odour, noise and increase in truck traffic both at the facility and along haulage routes; ■ Keep the site away from sensitive environmental lands; ■ Avoid sensitive natural features – i.e., prairie grass; ■ Avoid farmlands. Many participants expressed concern that a large amount of farmland has already been lost to development; ■ Avoid impact on water table and wells; ■ Locate the site on commercial/industrial/employment lands; ■ Locate the site in the proximity of reclaimed water users including industry, sod farms and agricultural uses without taking away farmland; ■ Increase the buffers between the site and any adjacent land uses by more than 150 metres; ■ Ensure that the site will allow for future expansion; ■ Choose a site that would support greenbelt around it with potential for trails and recreational facilities; ■ Develop a site that will have a public education component; ■ Participants felt that the existing Holland Landing Lagoons should be eliminated from consideration. There are too many issues with this site. It is also too low in elevation and wouldn’t meet the site selection criteria reviewed; and ■ A significant number of workshop participants noted that they would like to see the Holland Landing Lagoons decommissioned and transferred to the Town of East Gwillimbury for community use.
<p>Community Considerations Identified for Development of the Site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ State of the art noise and odour controls. Smell has to be mitigated. Air quality assessments should be required regularly; ■ Best management practices to protect the environment in case of natural disaster or equipment failure; ■ Maximize safety considerations on site; ■ Incorporate a public education centre - a centre of excellence to demonstrate technology, best management practices and public education on site processes and purpose; ■ Look for opportunities to enhance natural environment. Increase tree cover and replace wetlands; ■ High quality architecture and site aesthetics; ■ Design the site with a visual buffer and community access and trails;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use green roofs, solar panels and alternative energy sources; ■ Strive for LEED certification; ■ Consider connecting to existing sewage plant(s); ■ Consider combining with other uses like a generating station; ■ Consideration given to leachate and how this can be kept out of the river; ■ Due to the size of the site –provide for recreation uses such as snowmobile trails – make it a public, usable space; ■ Review compensation for devaluation of property; and ■ Assess costs and plan wisely.
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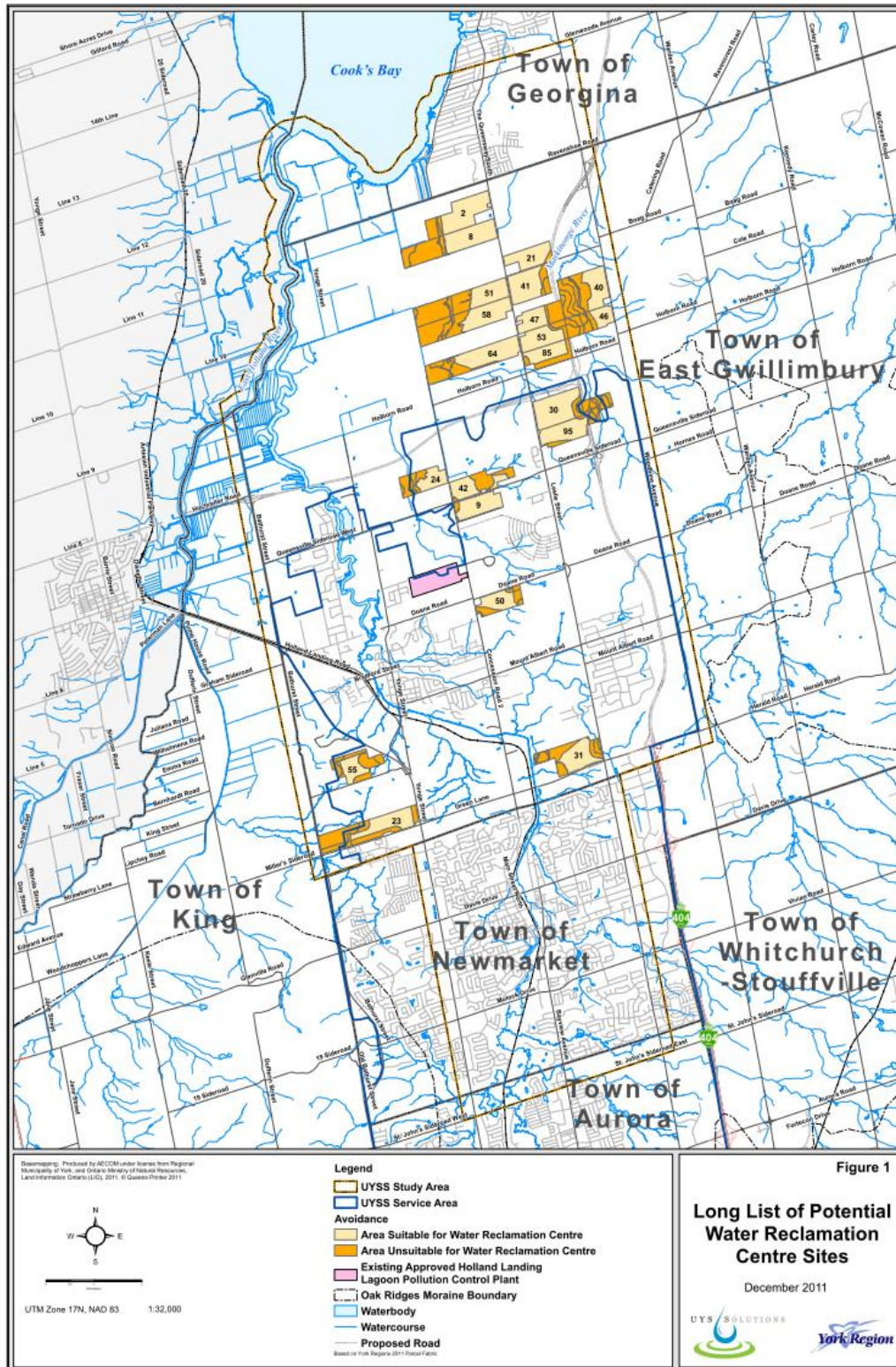
4.2 Long List of Potential Water Reclamation Centre Sites

A number of workshop participants provided feedback on the suitability of the each of the sites on the long list of potential sites (see **Figure 2**). These comments were recorded on flip chart paper at the station. A summary of the feedback received at each site is included in **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.2: Feedback Received on the Long List of Potential Sites

Site Number	Feedback Received on Potential Sites
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Too close to residential
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Could be a perfect site
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No – too close to my house (two people noted this)
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No comments noted
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This site recently changed ownership. It is too close to residential. Need to notify the new owners
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No – too close to my house (two people noted this)
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No comments noted
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Good site – close to East Holland River as discharge location and Region's reservoir, could increase the flow of water in the East Holland River
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paleo native site ■ Bought for development lands two years ago
41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In use as a potato farm (same as sites 47, 53, 85)
42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No – too close to my house (two people noted this)
46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Paleo native site
47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In use as a potato farm
50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Purchased for development – have they been notified? ■ No – too close to my house (two people noted this)
51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No comments noted
53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In use as a potato farm
55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Has the owner of this site been notified?
58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No comments noted
64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Good site as there is minimal residential nearby (several people noted this comment)
85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In use as a potato farm
95	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No comments noted

Figure 2: Long List of Potential Water Reclamation Sites



A number of workshop participants also provided comments on site considerations at this station in relation to the Holland Landing Water Pollution Control Plant (Lagoons) as a potential site. This feedback is included in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4.3: Feedback on Holland Landing Water Pollution Control Plant (Lagoons) Site

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A number of participants felt that the existing Holland Landing Lagoons should be eliminated from consideration. They indicated there are too many issues with this site. It is also too low in elevation and wouldn't meet the site selection criteria reviewed. ■ A significant number of workshop participants noted that they would like to see the Holland Landing Lagoons decommissioned and transferred to the Town of East Gwillimbury for community use or to be renaturalized by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. ■ Maintain commitment to decommissioning lagoons and transfer site to the Town for future use. Should reconsider pipe to Lake Ontario to allow lagoon decommissioning. ■ Address the confusion in the change of plans for the lagoons – public promised that these would be decommissioned. ■ Existing lagoon site should be decommissioned, it has too much impact on current residents and affects property values in negative way. ■ Would like to understand the difference in cost in using the existing regionally owned Holland Landing Lagoons site in comparison to a new site. ■ Consider building Mount Albert demonstration project at the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant to allow like for like comparison. ■ Consider the location of the floodplain (three people noted this).
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4.3 Feedback on Draft Screening Criteria and Suggestions for Additional Screening Criteria

As discussed in **Section 2**, workshop participants were asked to provide feedback on the draft screening criteria to be used to assess the long list of potential sites to arrive at a short list, and provide suggestions for additional criteria for the project team to consider. Reflecting the broad definition of the environment provided in the *Environmental Assessment Act*¹ and the Minister approved (as amended) Terms of Reference, the feedback provided by workshop participants is grouped according to the following categories:

- Technical considerations
- Natural environment
- Built environment
- Social environment
- Cultural environment (including built heritage and archaeological)
- Economic environment and financial considerations

¹ In the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act "environment" is defined as:

(a) air, land or water,
 (b) plant and animal life, including human life,
 (c) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community,
 (d) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans,
 (e) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or
 (f) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them, in or of Ontario.

A summary of the feedback provided, grouped into these categories is provided in **Tables 4.4 to 4.9** below. Additionally, workshop participants identified a number of considerations for use in reviewing and screening the long list of sites, which was unrelated to the preceding six categories (see **Table 4.10**).

Additional feedback, comments and questions from workshop participants that are not related to the Water Reclamation Centre site selection process or criteria are included in **Table 4.11**.

The feedback provided by workshop participants will be considered by the project team as the final screening criteria are developed and long list of potential sites is assessed.

Table 4.4: Feedback on Technical Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- Consider future expansion – the bigger the site the greater the potential for expansion and ability to adapt to new approaches.
 - Plan for size of buildings and tanks.
 - Incorporate green energy power generation – solar and windmills.
 - Use green roofs, solar panels and alternative energy sources.
- Note: Workshop participants provided input at the technical station that helped to provide more clarity for feedback on other criteria (i.e., on natural environment, social environment, etc). With this in mind, this feedback is included in Tables 4.5 to 4.10 below.*

Table 4.5: Feedback on Natural Environment Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- Would like to see the Region adopt an approach for the project of putting back more than you take i.e., could create large wetland areas as part of the project.
- Preference for sites that could be suitable for the creation of wetlands and greenbelt.
- Would like to see the natural environment enhanced through this project – leave it better than it was before with respect to plant life, fish and birds.
- Look for opportunities to enhance natural environment. Increase tree cover and replace wetlands.
- Temperature match important. Take into consideration the difference in temperature (Water Reclamation Centre and Lake Simcoe).
- Avoid depleting water quantity.
- Create more oxygen for fish.
- Choose sites that will help the receiving basin – i.e., Holland River, Cook's Bay.
- Would like to see a wider river access for discharge.
- Make sure that the depth of the Holland River is enough to accept extra water from the Water Reclamation Centre.
- Would like to see a review of trade-off of water for irrigation against the benefits for the river.
- Conserve prairie grass at Holland Landing Prairie Provincial Park – only one left in Ontario.
- Avoid sensitive natural features – i.e., prairie grass.
- Consider how intermittent streams will fit into this project.
- Undertake enough studies to ensure that there are no long term effects on the Environment.
- Keep the site away from sensitive environmental lands.
- Consideration given to leachate and how this can be kept out of the river.

Table 4.6: Feedback on Built Environment Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- The Water Reclamation Centre should be an adequate distance from residential areas.
- Locate away from residential areas.
- Would like to see a site that is surrounded by parks and publicly accessible areas.
- Choose a site that would support greenbelt around it with potential for trails and recreational facilities.
- Due to the size of the site –provide for recreation uses such as snowmobile trails – make it a public, usable space.
- Design the site with a visual buffer and community access and trails.
- Would like to ensure that a suitably large buffer zone is provided between the facility and any adjacent land uses.
- Continued enjoyment of property/land is of paramount importance to people.
- Site should be segregated from existing development.
- Should not use sites that have development potential.
- Don't want to see the site south of Queensville Side Road – all of these are under development plans.
- Traffic levels may increase and need to be addressed.
- Minimize increase in traffic on regional roads.
- Concerns noted about haul routes that would be used to haul sludge and how this would impact community. Want to avoid adverse impacts associated with hauling materials away from the site.
- Sludge haul routes need to be considered in selecting a site to avoid odour and traffic along haul routes.
- Consider where the power lines will be that will feed the plant and address impact of locating power lines.
- Avoid farmlands. Many participants expressed concern that a large amount of farmland has already been lost to development.

Table 4.7: Feedback on Social Environment Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- Odour and noise are a concern and must be addressed appropriately to alleviate any concerns of community.
- Select a site that will avoid odour and noise impacts.
- Consider prevailing winds in assessing sites and potential for air quality issues.
- Choose a site that avoids impacts on existing land uses from odour, noise and increase in truck traffic both at the facility and along haulage routes.
- Site carefully to manage odour issues and keep away from homes and rural residences. Consider both existing and future land uses.
- State of the art noise and odour controls. Smell has to be mitigated. Air quality assessments should be required regularly.
- Property values are a key issue for people – no adverse impacts from issues such as noise and odour.
- Increase buffer to more than 150 metres to lessen any visual impacts.
- Potential effects of construction activity on the water quality and quantity in existing private wells.
- Avoid impact on water table and wells.
- How will the Region compensate people if there is a loss of property value or loss of water in local wells?

Table 4.8: Feedback on Cultural and Heritage Environment Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- Must respect the Aboriginal settlement behind Anchor Park.
- Would like to see a rating system used in the evaluation for ranking sites with respect to cultural/archaeological significance.

- Should also consider the listing of sites that the Town of East Gwillimbury has compiled (483 sites) that are not listed in the provincial registry. This list is of significance.
- Must respect the Long house Paleo site.
- Mark sites of archaeological significance and avoid these.
- Must respect Soldiers Bay military settlement near Anchor Park.
- Protect for natural environmental features that have a cultural and heritage significance including Holland Landing, Cedar Street, Prairie Grass, portage trails along Holland River, Cook's Bay (used by Aboriginals and fur traders) and Queensville Sideroad which is the boundary of the former glacial Lake Algonquin.

Table 4.9: Feedback on Economic and Financial Environment Considerations and Screening Criteria Input

- Shouldn't have any impact on the property tax especially for the existing property owners.
- Don't want to see an increase in property taxes as a result of this project (two people noted this comment).
- Ensure that property values are not adversely affected (both present and future value).
- Review compensation for devaluation of property.
- Assess costs and plan wisely.
- Assess long term operational costs and include in financial estimates for the project. In particular, any increase in electricity rates should be factored in.
- Is there a costing for the different technology treatment and options?
- Who will pay for operating costs of plant and maintenance? And replacement of equipment as it fails?
- Who will pay for any long-term costs of potential environmental impacts – the Region, the Town?

Table 4.10: Other Considerations for Siting and Developing the Water Reclamation Centre

- Consider multi-uses for the site – could include East Gwillimbury transfer station.
- Site should be adaptable to combined uses – i.e., treated wastewater could be used for irrigation of the Holland Marsh. The water flow from the East Holland River could be channelled into the treatment plant before it reaches Lake Simcoe and the phosphorous removed.
- Site should be acceptable to local residents and councils.
- Consider impact of Hydro servicing for the Water Reclamation Centre – what are the impacts of extending hydro – visually and operationally?
- Consider the piping distance to facility and outfall.
- Locate the site on commercial/industrial/employment lands.
- Water Reclamation Centre Site should be within the service area.
- Locate the site in the proximity of reclaimed water users including industry, sod farms and agricultural uses without taking away farmland.
- Develop a site that will have a public education component.
- Incorporate a public education centre - a centre of excellence to demonstrate technology, best management practices and public education on site processes and purpose;
- How will the different criteria be rated? For example, natural environment compared to cost. Make sure that the weighting of criteria is public and available for input.
- Best management practices to protect the environment in case of natural disaster or equipment failure.
- Maximize safety considerations on site.
- High quality architecture and site aesthetics.
- Strive for LEED certification.
- Consider connecting to existing sewage plant(s).
- Consider combining with other uses like a generating station.

Table 4.11: Comments Not Specifically Related to the Water Reclamation Centre Site Generation and Selection Process

Water Quality and Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support keeping water in the watershed (not sending it to the Lake Ontario watershed). ■ Respect commitment to avoiding intra-basin transfer. ■ Explain how is the Water Reclamation Centre will keep the water balance in Lake Simcoe. ■ How will the fish be impacted by a change in the water temperature in the Holland River or at Cook's Bay? What is the benefit of the Water Reclamation Centre on the fish life? ■ What can be done to aerate Holland Creek and Cook's Bay to improve quality? ■ Consider use reclaimed water for aquifer recharge. ■ Show quality control of effluent and reclaimed water (real time on website). ■ Address commitment to Georgina to repair Maskinonge River.
Biosolids Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What happens to sludge disposal – concerns expressed about economical disposal and hazards to the environment, risks of contaminating groundwater, adhering to standards and safe disposal. Who controls this once the plant is operational and what safeguards will be put in place? ■ Shouldn't be considering land application of biosolids since York Region doesn't allow this. Biosolids management is an option.
Microconstituents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What are the costs for testing for microconstituents – e.g., Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products? ■ For the demonstration study – include tests for Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products.
Use of Reclaimed Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Can the cost be reduced by selling by-products? Should plan for this now and include in building and site design. Think ahead now for future partnerships. ■ Provide more information about reclaimed water. Are there customers for it? Is the cost the same to farmers as to others, the cost should be expressed in the cost per litre. ■ Explore industrial uses for reclaimed water with cost recovery.
Other Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concerns about too much development occurring in the area with emphasis on overpopulating and loss of farmland to home building, resulting in a lack of food. ■ Should reconsider growth forecasted to occur in service area. ■ Would like to see community benefits from the siting of this facility including new community and recreational facilities (an aquarium was suggested that represents the water of the area). ■ Build the plant to service existing infrastructure – 1 to 4 mld. a day. Do not put in more capacity to allow more subdivisions. ■ Prefer to build the plant first and then development process comes second to avoid the big pipe. ■ Minimize construction disruption period.

Section 5.0 Summary

This public workshop was held as part of the Alternatives Methods of Carrying out the Undertaking stage of the UYSS EA reflecting the consultation plan outlined in the Minister approved (as amended) Terms of Reference. The purpose of the workshop was to explain the process of selecting a site for the proposed Water Reclamation Centre and gain feedback from the public on the long list of potential sites, site requirements and the selection process.

In total, over 70 people attended the workshop and comments and questions were received through facilitated groups and from interactive sessions. Workshop participants provided many insights into what they think York Region should consider in the site selection process. Key comments from the workshop included:

- The natural environment must be protected, in particular water quality in the East Holland River;
- The Water Reclamation Centre site should be situated away from private residences and valuable farmland;
- The generation of any noise or odour from the Water Reclamation Centre must be mitigated;
- The site should be selected in such a way as to not negatively affect historic and archaeologically significant sites;
- The Holland Landing Lagoon Water Pollution Control Plant should not be considered as a potential site; and
- The Water Reclamation Centre should be visually appealing and benefit the community.

Additional issues and questions raised at the public workshop included potential effects on the water quality in the Lake Simcoe watershed, biosolids management, potential effects from microconstituents, and the use of reclaimed water.



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Appendix C

Public Workshop Presentation



December 14, 2011 Public Information Forum
Summary Report
Upper York Sewage Solutions EA



Appendix D

Comments from Work Stations

Appendix E

Comments from Work Stations Verbatim

<p>Workshop Feedback about the Natural Environment Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do not affect the area surrounding adversely. ■ Would like to see the Region adopt an approach for the project of putting back more than you take i.e., could create large wetland areas as part of the project ■ Would like to see the natural environment enhanced through this project – leave it better than it was before with respect to plant life, fish and birds. ■ Temperature match important. Take into consideration the difference in temperature (Water Reclamation Centre and Lake Simcoe) ■ Avoid depleting water quantity. ■ Avoid significant Boag forest. ■ Create more oxygen for fish. ■ Should consider locating the facility further south to get more benefit. ■ Support keeping water in the watershed (not Lake Ontario). ■ Would like to see a review of trade-off of water to irrigation against benefit for the river. ■ Keep the facility away from people and residences. Odour was noted many times by workshop participants as a concern that needs to be mitigated. ■ Conserve prairie grass – only one left in Ontario. ■ Concerns noted about existing wells – both water quality and quantity and impacts from being experienced due to construction. ■ Consider impact of global warming and how it could affect the project. ■ Consider how intermittent streams will fit into this project.
<p>Workshop Feedback about the Built Environment Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Water Reclamation Centre should be far from resident area. ■ Shouldn't have any impact on the Property tax especially for the existing property owners. ■ Would like to see a site that is surrounded by parks and publically accessible by areas. ■ Would like to ensure that a big buffer zone is provided between the facility and any adjacent land uses. ■ Odour is a concern – reference to when the discharge period occurs and odour that was experienced over the Easter weekend on another facility. ■ Concerns about too much development occurring in the area with emphasis on overpopulating and loss of farmland and lack of food with homes being built on farmland.
<p>Workshop Feedback about the Social Environment Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Property values need to be maintained (both present and future value). ■ Odour and noise are a concern and must be addressed appropriately to alleviate any concerns of community. ■ Would like to see community benefits from the siting of this facility including new community and recreational facilities (an aquarium is suggested that represents the water of the area. ■ It was noted that the facility needs to have an educational element. ■ Continued enjoyment of property/ land is of paramount importance to people. ■ Need to protect well and groundwater. ■ Traffic levels may increase and need to be addressed. ■ Concerns noted about haul routes that would be used to haul sludge and how this would impact community. Want to avoid adverse impacts associated with hauling materials away from the site. ■ Concerns noted about the “stigma” of this type of facility. ■ Effects of construction need to be addressed. ■ Would like to see the area promoted and enhanced as a tourism draw from the GTA for fishing, education, etc.

<p>Workshop Feedback about Cultural and Heritage Environment Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must respect the Aboriginal settlement behind Anchor Park. ▪ Would like to see a rating system used in the evaluation for ranking sites with respect to cultural/archaeological significance. ▪ Should also consider the listing of sites that the Town of East Gwillimbury has compiled (483 sites) that are not listed in the provincial registry. This list is of significance. ▪ Must respect the Long house at PALEO. ▪ Must respect Soldiers Bay military settlement in near Anchor Park. ▪ Protect for natural environmental features that have a cultural and heritage significance including Holland landing, Cedar Street, Prairie Grass, portage trails along Holland River and Cook's Bay (used by aboriginals and fur traders) and Queensville Side Road which is the boundary of the former glacial Lake Algonquin. ▪ Maintain trails to provide active transportation. ▪ Need to locate away from prime agricultural land which is of significance to our heritage and continued use. ▪ Would like to ensure that aquifers are assessed and protected. ▪ Should look at history of Newmarket and era from the 1800s for cultural and heritage significance of the area. ▪ Would like to see this project create an educational centre that recognized and promotes our cultural heritage. ▪ Would like to see everyone looking after their own waste and own environment. Everyone has to look after your own waste look after own environment.
<p>Workshop Feedback about Economic and Financial Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Property values are a key issue for people – no adverse impacts. Avoid noise and odour ▪ Should assess long term operational costs and include in financial estimates for the project. In particular an increase in electricity rates should be factored in. ▪ The cost of the project should not be borne by existing residents – should be by future residents. ▪ Disclose the use of the site ahead of time so that there are no surprises to potential buyers in the vicinity of the site. ▪ Would like to understand the difference in cost in using the existing regionally owned Holland Landing Lagoons site in comparison to a new site. ▪ Shouldn't be considering land application of bio solids since York Region doesn't allow this. Bio solids management is an option. ▪ Provide more information about reclaimed water. Are there customers for it? If for same to farmers and others, the cost should be expressed in the cost per litre. ▪ What are the costs for testing for microconstituents – pharmaceuticals (PPCPs)? ▪ Is there a costing of the different technology treatment and options? ▪ Don't want to see an increase in property taxes as a result of this project (two people noted this comment). ▪ Who will pay for operating costs of plant and maintenance? And replacement of equipment as it fails? ▪ Who will pay for any long-term costs of potential environmental impacts – the Region, the Town? ▪ Should consider a joint partnership with a company to offset the costs i.e., water reuse for industrial purposes. Could research potential users and water requirements (industries can bring in potential jobs) and bring them to the town. Would like to see these companies approached now.
<p>Workshop Feedback about Technical Considerations for Site Selection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Select a site that will avoid odour and noise impacts. ▪ Locate away from residential. ▪ Sludge haul routes need to be considered in selecting a site to avoid odour and traffic along haul routes. ▪ Consider prevailing winds in assessing sites and potential for air quality issues. ▪ Would like to see a wider river access for discharge.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase buffer more than 150 metres to lessen visual impact.▪ Minimize increase in traffic on regional roads.▪ Consider future expansion – the bigger the site the better with potential to expand and adapt to new approaches.▪ Consider where the power lines will be that will feed the plant and address impact of locating power lines.▪ Incorporate green energy power generation – solar and windmills.▪ Preference for sites that could be suitable for the creation of wetlands and greenbelt.▪ Use reclaimed water for aquifer recharge.▪ Plan for size of buildings and tanks.▪ Build the plant to service existing infrastructure – 1 to 4 ml. a day. Do not put in more capacity to allow more subdivisions.▪ Explore industrial uses for reclaimed water with cost recovery▪ Minimize construction disruption period.▪ Quality control of effluent and reclaimed water (real time on website)▪ For the demonstration study – include PPCP test
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Appendix E

Comment Forms